



Ten Talents Vegetarian Cookbook

by Rosalie Hurd, B.S.; Frank J. Hurd, D.C., M.D.

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... Battling the Beast, *continued from p. 1*

power that stands up to every element of the beast and will finally vanquish selfishness from the human heart of all who place their trust in God (see 2 Corinthians 5:14). Removing ourselves from organizations, religious or otherwise, does not insure our separation from the beast, for its principles are the foundation of our nature. Seeing Christ in His purity and love convicts us of our beastly sinfulness. Grasping the amazing sacrifice that puts us right with God heals us from the beast within. Jesus only is our hope. He lived as a man, frankly acknowledged self-will and fully crucified it in His life (see Matthew 26:39). Christ is "true and faithful" to deliver us from the beast of selfishness (Revelation 19:11). "If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36, NASB). Amen.

... Africa Firsthand, *continued from p. 3*

diplomas and then pass them to me. One person after another stood and came forward, forming a line. As each one passed by, receiving their diploma, I looked into their eyes and glanced at their names, making sure to match each name to the appropriate individual. A few of them had to correct me, refusing one diploma and pointing to another bearing the right name. "Here is a human being, and yet another and another," I thought to myself, "each one a totally unique person with a name, and with a heart and mind all their own, freely turning their lives over to Christ, and each one will live and reign with Him forever and ever." The thought was almost overwhelming. Such is the power of truth-filled literature!

JUNE 2009

Events Schedule

- **June 5-7**
Ty Gibson
Kansas-Nebraska Camp Meeting
☎(785)478-4726
- **June 9**
Ty Gibson
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
☎(541)988-3333
- **June 13**
James Rafferty
Lebanon SDA Church, OR
☎(541)258-7827
- **June 13**
Risë Rafferty
Better Life TV Camp Meeting
Milo Academy, OR
☎(541)474-3089
- **June 20**
James Rafferty
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
☎(541)937-3526
- **June 21-25**
Ty Gibson
Washington Conference Camp Meeting,
Auburn Academy, Auburn, WA
☎(253)681-6008
- **June 26-27**
James Rafferty
Roseburg SDA Church, OR
☎(541)672-1542
- **June 30-July 4**
LBM Convocation, Jasper, OR
☎(541)988-3333 www.lbm.org
- **July 12**
Ty Gibson
Oklahoma Conference Camp Meeting
Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, OK
☎(405)721-6110

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*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in beautiful Oregon State.
Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.*

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry



Battling the Beast

By James Rafferty

In the book of Revelation the beast is often identified as some big, bad power seeking to control the world in the end of time. Yet this picture is but the multiplication of the lives and purposes of a more subtle enemy. The beast we battle is our selfish human nature. Martin Luther summarized it well when he said, "I fear self more than I fear the pope and all his bishops."

Revelation uncovers a number of principles that define the "name" (character) of the beast that, left unconquered, make us part of its system (see Revelation 13:17; 15:2). For starters, Satan is "a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). This is signified in Revelation by the "dragon" whose "tail" drew a third of the angels away from God (Revelation 12:4; Isaiah 9:15). Lying then, is the basis of the beast system and "whoever loves and practices a lie, regardless of profession, remains 'outside' the kingdom of God" (Revelation 22:15, NKJV).

Accusation and "anger" are two more principles of the beast (Revelation 12:10, 12). Road rage, spouse beating, wars, persecution—anger envelopes our society while gossip feeds us. They are like plagues with no remedy.

Blasphemy and pride make up another two that go hand-in-hand (see Revelation 13:1, 5, 6). In pride people "speak evil," specifically "of those things which they know not . . ." (Jude 10; see also 1 Peter 4:4, 14; 2 Peter 2:2). How often do we hear, and join in, evil conversation concerning people and even God when we really don't know the facts (Revelation 13:6).

Hypocrisy is another characteristic of the second beast of Revelation 13 who has two lamb-like horns, but speaks like a dragon. The "horns like a lamb" are a symbol of Christ, the "Lamb of God" who was "slain" for all sin (Revelation 13:8; 5:6). Looking like the Lamb (Christian) but speaking like the dragon (Satan)

is hypocrisy. Hypocrisy eats out the very heart of the church.

Deception is yet another characteristic of the beast (see Revelation 13:14). When we fail to recognize the true selfishness of our nature and turn from what is right, we deceive ourselves and others (see 1 John 1:8; 1 John 3:7; 2 Timothy 3:13).

Finally the use of force and control is an inevitable consequence of allowing selfishness to reign (see Revelation 13:15-17, 12). Having lost control of ourselves, we fall under the control of another and become servants of the master we have chosen (Romans 6:16). We end up living a life we know in our innermost being is wrong.

Lies, accusation, anger, evil speaking, pride, hypocrisy, deception, force and control, these are the principles of the beast. The principle of God's kingdom is love as demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ (see 1 John 4:8; John 3:16). Love is the constraining

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By Ty Gibson

Picture this scene: I was taken to a rough, dilapidated building in the very city where Nelson Mandela began his quiet revolution. Upon entering I was greeted by about fifty men and women, all seated in rows.

My escort informed me: "In the week to follow each of the enrollees will receive a visit at their home, in which lesson one will be reviewed and lesson two dropped off."

Also at this first visit other family members and friends will be invited to enroll as well, forming, in many cases, a small group Bible study. The remarkable simplicity and effectiveness of this plan is a beautiful thing to behold. And behold it I did, with deep pleasure.

out to caress the baby. Three young men emerged from one of the back rooms to greet us, and then an older man and woman. They were all very welcoming and eager to engage in conversation. All of them were recently baptized after having completed the Bible study course. They spoke, one after another, of how grateful they were to learn of Jesus' love for them, of the Sabbath truth and the Three Angels Messages. It was so evident that while their faith



AFRICA FIRSTHAND

"This is one of our literature ministry teams," my escort informed me.

They all smiled and waved and then began to sing the hymn, *Bringing in the Sheaves*.

"What exactly do they do?" I quietly inquired.

"We will show you," he eagerly replied with a big smile.

Once the song ended they all rose to their feet like a small army, each one with a stack of Light Bearers literature in one hand and a pen in the other. I followed them out of the building. They immediately fanned out on the streets and began engaging individuals in conversation. As I watched from an inconspicuous distance, one person after another was enrolled in a Bible study course and given lesson number one on the spot.

Such were the encounters I had on my recent trip to Africa. I witnessed firsthand the powerful effect Light Bearers literature is having on this continent of great need. I was deeply gratified to encounter not only extreme enthusiasm for literature ministry, but also to see how organized and deliberate our brothers and sisters are in their use of the literature. They consider it of high value and its distribution a great privilege and responsibility.

The next day I was taken to one of the homes. We climbed six flights of stairs and made our way down a walkway to a small, three-room flat. Upon entering, there was a young woman cradling a newborn in her arms, and another young woman sitting close by reaching

was new and had a childlike feel to it, they were deeply committed to Christ and soundly educated in His message. "These are just a few of the fruits



encounter everywhere we go to hand out the literature," one of the workers explained. "Then, can you imagine what happens when we announce that those who believe the message taught in this powerful literature will be holding a series of meetings at such and such a place on such and such dates? They come by the droves."

The reason is, prejudice has been broken down and curiosity piqued. The messages they read in the literature so enlighten the mind and uplift the heart that they are eager to learn more.

Then there was the day I was taken to a unique graduation service. The church was filled with high school students as well as a number of adults who had completed the Discover Bible study course. By the labors of one school teacher and some assisting Bible workers, almost an entire high school student body and some of their parents had been led through the course to an acceptance of Christ and His special end-time message. The man leading the service began to read aloud the names printed on the

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of the literature sent from Light Bearers," the Bible worker explained. "We met them handing out tracts on the streets and invited them to engage in the study course. They agreed and now they are our brothers and sisters in Christ."

A few days later, and in a whole different African country, I was taken to a large open market swarming with buyers, sellers and beggars. We arrived in a large SUV filled with Bible workers and loaded with boxes of literature. I was instructed to climb on top of the vehicle and watch. At first as I sat there nothing was happening. Even the oddity of a white guy on top of the vehicle was attracting little attention. Then the tailgate of the SUV was opened. The boxes were unloaded and opened. The workers began offering publications to those passing by. Within a matter of two or three minutes a large crowd of people were pressing in upon them, hands outstretched, eager to receive the gift. From my high vantage point I could see the densely packed throng at the center of the action, like the eye of a turbulent hurricane, and I could also

see one person after another exiting from the congested area with the precious treasure in hand, already reading with interest. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6, NKJV).

"This is the level of interest we

